

January 25, 2007

Brian T. Kelly, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Wyoming Field Office
4000 Airport Parkway
Cheyenne, WY 82001

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND
CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE NORTH BUTTE ISL SATELLITE PROJECT
REQUEST

Dear Mr. Kelly:

By letter dated July 5, 2006, Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) its North Butte *In Situ* Leach (ISL) Satellite Operating Plan per Condition 10.2.1 of Source Materials License SUA-1548. The North Butte ISL Satellite facility is located in Campbell County, approximately 35 air miles (54 road miles) from the City of Gillette, Wyoming. It encompasses all or portions of the following sections:

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Sections</u>
T 44 N	R 75 W	18 and 19
T 44 N	R 76 W	13, 23, 24, and 25

A map showing the boundaries of the North Butte ISL permit area is enclosed (Figure 1).

ISL mining involves injecting a carbonate/bicarbonate leaching solution and oxidant into a subsurface uranium ore body to dissolve the uranium and then pumping the uranium-bearing solution to the surface for further processing to remove and concentrate the uranium. Construction activities associated with the proposed mining in the North Butte ISL Satellite area would involve: (1) the laying of pipelines five feet below the ground surface to carry the leaching solution and the uranium-bearing solution; (2) the drilling of multiple injection, production, and monitor wells; and (3) the construction of access roads as needed. In addition, PRI is proposing to construct, within the North Butte ISL Satellite area, a 19,000 ft² satellite building to house injection pumps, water treatment equipment, ion exchange columns for removing uranium from the solution, a small laboratory, and an employee break room. Operational activities would be confined to the North Butte ISL Satellite.

Please provide information that you may have concerning the presence of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat in the action area. After assessing the information provided by you, the NRC staff will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process.

B.Kelly

- 2 -

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-7612 or by email at pxm2@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Hydrogeologist
Uranium Recovery and Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-8964
License No.: SUA-1548

Enclosure: North Butte ISL Satellite Project Map

cc: J. McCarthy, PRI

B.Kelly

- 2 -

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-7612 or by email at pxm2@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Hydrogeologist
Uranium Recovery and Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-8964
License No.: SUA-1548

Enclosure: North Butte ISL Satellite Project Map

cc: J. McCarthy, PRI

DISTRIBUTION:
DURLD r/f

ML070250158

OFFICE	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	PMichalak	BGarrett	BvonTill
DATE	1/25/07	1/25/07	1/25/07

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY